On April 8,1151, he was associated in the monarchy and crowned with great pomp at Palermo by Archbishop Hugh. In reply to the Pope's indignant protest that his consent had not been asked, Roger replied with the high tone of former days that the Archbishop had received the pallium and therefore had the right to crown the princes of Sicily.

The empires of East and West had never recognised the kingdom which Roger had created, and for fourteen years a succession of Popes had refused the Papal sanction to what was technically a fief of St, Peter. But Roger, who had claimed always to be *a deo coronatus,* asserted the highest claims of sovereignty to the last among the kings of Europe.

The King's health had now for some years been declining, and his death was hastened by the indulgence to which he had early been habituated in his half-oriental court, with its seraglio and its slaves. He was now in his fifty-ninth year; on February 26, 1154, he died at Palermo, either of a fever or according to an Arab author of a disease of the heart.[1] A sarcophagus of porphyry had been prepared for him since 1145, in his foundation

of Cefalu, and now received the king's body. On the completion of the Cathedral of Palermo under William II. this sarcophagus was transferred thither; a large side chapel now contains the

*Romttald, anno MCLIL, says "of a fever"; Ibn-el-AtMr» "of angina"; *v. B. A, S.*$_t$ ill, p. 122.